

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 4-13, 17-26 and 30-40 are pending in this application. Claims 1-3, 14-16 and 27-29 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 11, 13, 24-26, 37 and 39 have been currently amended. Claims 4, 11, 13, 17, 24-26, 30, 37 and 39-40 are independent claims. Support for the amendment may be found throughout the specification and drawings.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

Claims 1-3, 14-16 and 27-29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Gamal et al. ("Gamal", U.S. Patent Number 5,754,826). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. However, in order to hasten the prosecution of the present application, Claims 1-3, 14-16 and 27-29 have been canceled without prejudice.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 4-10, 17-23, 30-36 and 40 are allowed over the prior art of record. Applicants herein thank the Patent Office.

The Patent Office has indicated that Claims 11-13, 24-26 and 37-39 "would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims" (Office Action, Page 3). Applicants have rewritten these claims in accordance with the Patent Office's instruction and have also corrected formal matters. Thus, Claims 11-13, 24-26 and 37-39 should be allowed.

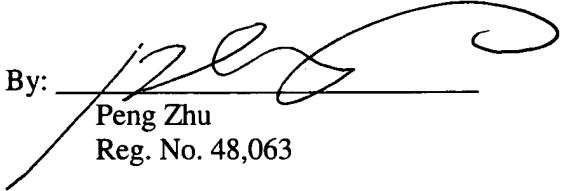
CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in the case.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of
LSI Logic Corporation,

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By: _____


Peng Zhu
Reg. No. 48,063

SUITER • WEST PC LLO
14301 FNB Parkway, Suite 220
Omaha, NE 68154
(402) 496-0300 telephone
(402) 496-0333 facsimile